

# Beatrice Institute

## ANNUAL REPORT

2022

---

PITTSBURGH, PA

# WHO WE ARE

## BOARD

**DAN VERES, PRESIDENT**

**MARK GROBAKER,  
TREASURER**

**JASON SPAK, SECRETARY**

**DAREN D'IPPOLITO,  
MEMBER**

## STAFF

**RYAN MCDERMOTT**

FOUNDER & SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

**JAMES DEMASI**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**JENNIFER BRIGHT TINKER**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**EMILY PINO**

SENIOR PROGRAM COORDINATOR

**NATE MADDEN**

SENIOR PROGRAM ASSISTANT

**ALYSSA CARNEVALI**

JUNIOR PROGRAM ASSISTANT

## RESEARCH & PODCAST EDITORS

**ROSEMARY CALLENBERG,**

**SARAH SLATER,**

**&**

**KATE MEYER**

# INTRODUCTION

## MISSION

Beatrice Institute is an ecumenical learning and research community based in Pittsburgh that fosters friendships around the Christian intellectual and cultural traditions in pursuit of the Beautiful, the True, and the Good.

## VISION

Beatrice Institute contributes to the universities and community of Pittsburgh, and beyond, in three ways. First, we address the gaps in undergraduate and graduate education in Pittsburgh by facilitating engagement with the intellectual and cultural riches of the Christian tradition. Second, we sponsor advanced research projects within a Christian framework, built around the expertise of our local faculty. Third, we host public events to promote the renewal of culture in the Pittsburgh area. We aspire to become the center of Christian intellectual life in Pittsburgh and a light beyond it.



# CHRISTIAN STUDIES FELLOWS PROGRAM

Christian Studies Fellows are undergraduates from a wide variety of majors who want to learn more about the Bible and Christian history, culture, and theology in community. Fellows meet for dinner and a bi-weekly seminar. We welcome students from any major, year, or religious affiliation.

## AT-A-GLANCE:

Spring 2022 - Fall 2022

- Fellows: 53

Expanded to three cohorts in Fall 2022:

- Body and Soul
- Happiness and the Good Life
- Formative Christian Ideas

## TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE:

- Creation and the Fall
- The Body Politic and the Mystical Body of Christ
- The Unknowability of God
- The Paradox of the Trinity
- Narrative Lives and the Quest for Meaning
- Friendship and Happiness

## Graduate Spotlight

*Kalen McDonald*

The knowledge, guidance, inspiration, and passion I gained impacts me on an almost daily basis. After college, I accepted a position teaching English, literature, and Latin at a Catholic middle school. Even though Beatrice Institute's material is certainly targeted for university-level students, those lessons inform my teaching continually, from the scope of poetry to questions of identity in literature and life in general.

Teaching has taught me that the same questions of faith, meaning, and personal formation that plague college students are still pondered over by younger learners. Truly, I am not confident that I would myself have been prepared to tackle these questions in the classroom without the formation provided by BI.



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

# CHRISTIAN STUDIES FELLOWS PROGRAM



Fellows attended a faculty lecture and toured the John Kane exhibit at the Heinz History Center.

## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Neighborhood Resilience Project
- Amen to Action

## CULTURAL EXCURSIONS:

- Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
- Sacred Heart Church Architecture Tour
- Requiem: An Introduction to Sacred Art
- What Would John Kane Paint Today?
- Holy Slang: A Weekend of Poetry
- Salon: A Hidden Life



Students and Staff participated in Amen to Action, a city-wide endeavor to pack one million meals for Thanksgiving.



Students attended Ann Schmalstiegl Barrett's *Requiem: An Introduction to Sacred Art* at The Port in Lawrenceville.

## WHAT DO OUR STUDENTS THINK?



*My participation in the Christian Studies Fellowship has encouraged me to be an inquisitive Christian. I've been stretched to ask questions, reflect, find where I am dissatisfied and search for meaning. Ultimately, I have learned of my ability to think deeply about how Christianity is intertwined with all aspects of the good, true, and beautiful.-Michaela*

*The Christian Studies Fellows Program provided me with a nice respite from a very difficult semester. My conversations with Dr. DeMasi were also influential on how I view my future studies and career, and encouraged me to pursue my own passions for their own sake, rather than solely for money or status. - Jacob*



## FACULTY FELLOWS

The Faculty Fellows Program creates spaces where faculty can bring the resources of Christian traditions and revelation to their disciplines without compromising professional standing or intellectual rigor. Through intellectual friendship, Faculty Fellows promote flourishing in the academy and beyond it. The Christian Faculty Convivium convenes once a season to hear from one faculty member about their work and engage in wide-ranging conversation.



Recently, Kristin Gottron, Faculty of the Practice Fellow, presented on her work in data architecture.



Grant Martsolf is a Research Fellow at Beatrice Institute and a Professor and UPMC Health Systems Chair in Nursing Science at the University of Pittsburgh. At the winter Convivium, Dr. Martsolf provided a reflection titled *The Baby Bust through a Christian Imagination*.

In the Spring, Professor Elise Ryan, of the University of Pittsburgh, presented on *Translatio Amicorum, or Friendship as a Mode of Scholarship*.





## Beatrice Institute Faculty Fellows

Associate Professor Thérèse Bonin (*Philosophy, Duquesne University*)

Dr. Joel Brady (*Religious Studies, University of Pittsburgh*)

Professor Jonathan Caulkins (*University Professor of Operations Research and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University*)

Professor Elizabeth Cochran (*Theology, Duquesne University*)

Associate Professor Allyson Creasman (*Associate Head of History, Carnegie Mellon University*)

Associate Professor Michael Deem (*Human Genetics, University of Pittsburgh*)

Assistant Professor Andrew Dierkes (*School of Nursing, University of Pittsburgh*)

Professor John Dolan (*Robotics, Carnegie Mellon University*)

Assistant Professor Teresa Hagan Thomas (*Nursing, University of Pittsburgh*)

Rev. Dr. Daniel Hall (*Episcopal priest, general surgeon, medical ethicist and health services researcher, University of Pittsburgh*)

Dr. Gretchen Huizinga, (*Research Fellow, Podcast Host, BI Principle Investigator*)

Professor Anthony Isacco (*Psychology, Chatham University*)

Professor Cecile LaDouceur (*Psychology and Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh*)

Professor Grant Martself (*Nursing, University of Pittsburgh and BI Research Fellow*)

Associate Professor Calum Matheson (*Public Deliberation and Civic Life, University of Pittsburgh*)

Associate Professor Ryan McDermott (*Medieval Literature, University of Pittsburgh*)

Professor Kevin Mongrain (*Theology, Duquesne University*)

Associate Professor Marta Pecina (*Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh*)

Professor. Brent Robbins (*Chair, Dept. of Psychology, Point Park University*)

Professor David Sanchez (*Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Pittsburgh*)

Professor William Scott (*American & African American Literature, University of Pittsburgh*)

Assistant Professor Luke Sheahan (*Political Science, Duquesne University*)

Associate Professor Anthony Wachs (*Rhetoric & Communication Ethics, Duquesne University*)

Associate Professor Kurt Weiss (*Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Pittsburgh*)

Associate Professor Kenneth Woo (*Church History, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary*)



# I DANTI

*"Midway upon the journey of our life  
I found myself within a forest dark,  
For the straightforward pathway had been lost."  
-Inferno, l. 1-3*



Our *I Danti* program invites university faculty members to speak about their research in a smaller, intimate venue where we gather around food and drink. We call the program *I Danti*--the Dantes--and we are designing the seminars for anybody who is interested in investigating the Christian intellectual and cultural traditions.

# PUBLIC EVENTS



## Hearing the Spiritual in Music:

Dr. Susan Rice (*University of Pittsburgh*) offered a lecture on the upcoming Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's performance of Rachmaninoff and Bruckner. Event co-sponsored by First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.



## Julian of Norwich: Revelations of Divine Love

Led by Executive Director James DeMasi, this reading group grappled with the complex and beautiful vision of Divine intimacy as Julian of Norwich presents it in sixteen "shewings" in *Revelations of Divine Love*.



## Easter in Appalachia: Voices of the Valley

Penny Anderson and Pittsburgh Shape Note Singers, Joel Brady, Art Lindsay, and the Bruderhof Shalom Choir performed selections of Appalachian mountain music and Ohio River Valley hymns as we contemplated Easter from this uniquely American cultural perspective.



## What is the Bible? Medieval to Modern

On the 500th anniversary of the publication of Martin Luther's German translation of the New Testament, Beatrice Institute featured four TED-style talks. What did Bibles look like and how did they work before Luther? How did Reformation-era Jewish communities reproduce and interact with the Hebrew Bible? How did authorities regulate the circulation of Luther's revolutionary translation? And how did Luther teach lay people to read the Bible in translation?

# PUBLIC EVENTS



## **An Illuminated Requiem: Meditations on Love and Mortality with Ann Schmalstieg Barrett**

Inspired by the tradition of illuminated manuscripts, the Proper Chants of the Requiem Mass were presented with images that revealed the content of each prayer.



## **What Would John Kane Paint Today?**

Coinciding with the publication this year of *American Workman: The Life and Art of John Kane*, Professor Grant Martsoff and Dr. James DeMasi introduced the art and context of John Kane at The Senator John Heinz History Center, which hosted an exhibit of 37 of Kane's works. Professor Martsoff and Dr. DeMasi explored the genius of this 20th-century master and confronted his vision of *homo laborans*.



## **Holy Slang: A Weekend of Poetry**

Beatrice Institute hosted two consecutive nights of poetry reading, a round-table discussion, and a poetry workshop. Dr. Chiyuma Elliott, Dr. Kimberly Johnson, Jane Greer, Professor Robert Bernard Hass and the former Pennsylvania Poet Laureate, Samuel Hazo all provided readings.



## **A Winter Salon**

Salons have a long history as a refined format for the exchange of ideas. Usually turning around a work of art or a single idea, salons cultivate intellectual friendship in an atmosphere equal parts leisure and sharp thinking. This year, four panelists ignited the conversation with reflections on the merits and demerits of Terrence Malick's 2019 film, *A Hidden Life*.

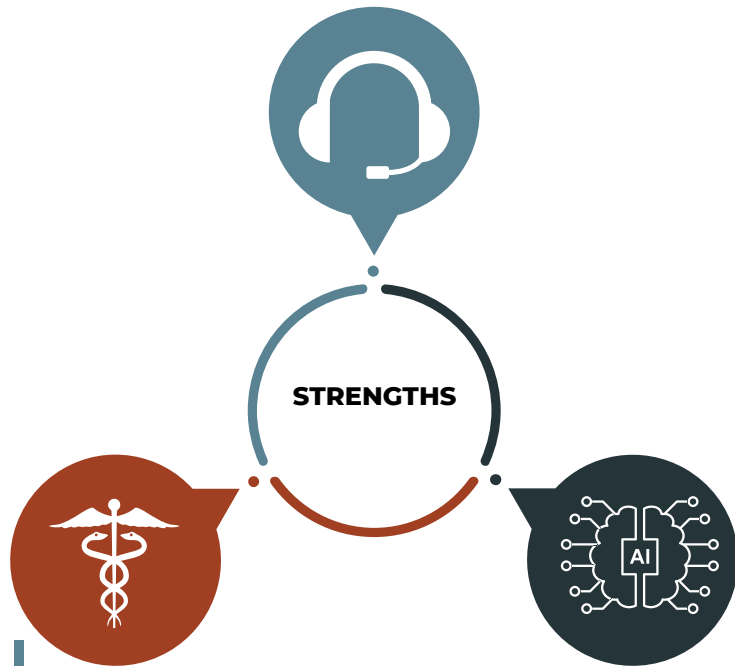


# RESEARCH PROJECTS

Beatrice Institute houses three research projects, reflecting our broad range of intellectual and cultural pursuits. In the coming year, these projects will be manifest in our podcast, our seminars, and our offerings for the public.

## HAPPINESS AND HUMAN FLOURISHING COURSE COMING TO PITT IN SPRING 2023

Grant Martsolf, David Sanchez, and Ryan McDermott developed and had approved a new course for the Spring Semester, "Happiness and Human Flourishing." This course tackles our contemporary "happiness crisis" by surveying cultures from throughout the world and across human history for wisdom on the nature of happiness and human flourishing. The course focuses on helping students reflect on their own lives and how they might thrive in college and beyond.



### **Genealogies of Modernity**

Led by Professor Ryan McDermott, the project seeks to motivate and organize a critical, cross-disciplinary inquiry into influential narratives of the origins of "modernity" in the humanities with a special focus on theological genealogies.

### **Personalism & Public Policy**

Dr. Grant Martsolf asks, "How should we organize our common life to promote the flourishing of the person, made in the image of God?"

### **Being Human in an Age of Artificial Intelligence**

Guided by Professor John Dolan, Gretchen Huizinga posits, "What makes humans special and what does it mean to flourish on the frontier of a technological future?"

# BEATRICE INSTITUTE PODCAST

## Top Podcast of 2022



Published on May 24, 2022, with Professor Matthew Milliner of Wheaton College and Beatrice's Professor Ryan McDermott. We often think of the time before the birth of Jesus Christ in terms of the Old Testament. But what about the humans in other parts of the world, long before the history of Israel begins? Art historian Matthew Milliner joined Ryan to discuss how "the Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world" might have been present in cultures tens of thousands of years ago. *(Gathered from data across all streaming platforms)*

1. *Does AI Bear Man's Image?* with John Wyatt
2. *Beyond the End of Liberalism* with Andrew Willard Jones
3. *What is the Cost of Human Flourishing?* with Brendan Case
4. *What If Christ Were Born after 100,000 Years of Human History?* with Brad Gregory

## SPOTIFY PODCAST STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

### We were heard in 26 countries

Top 5

- United States
- United Kingdom
- Ireland
- Canada
- Poland

15

Beatrice Institute Podcast ranked in the top 15% of podcasts shared globally.

### 2022 was a year of growth!

152% increase in hours recorded

151% increase in followers

127% increase in listeners

104% increase in streams

20

Beatrice Institute Podcast ranked in the top 20% of most followed podcasts.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## #BeatriceGives



**53** Undergraduate  
Fellows

Free public cultural  
events

**8**



**800+** People attended  
events

Podcast Episodes

**19**



**3** Faculty  
Fellowship  
Events

**PARTNER WITH US!**

[beatriceinstitute.org](http://beatriceinstitute.org)

## STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

### \$290,414 Total Revenue

\$ 45,866 Board and Individuals

\$156,000 Foundations

\$ 88,548 NEH Grant

### \$293,500 Total Expenditures

\$145,000 Staff Wages and Taxes

\$ 19,500 Christian Studies Fellows

\$ 12,000 Public Events

\$ 5,000 Podcast Production

\$ 2,000 Faculty Events

\$ 3,000 Graduate/I Danti Events

\$ 82,000 Genealogies of Modernity

Project (Funded by the National  
Endowment for the Humanities)

\$ 25,000 Other Operating Expenses



**THANK YOU!**

We would not have been able to bring our vision to life this year without the support of our individual donors!




# Beatrice Institute



 Support



 Podcast